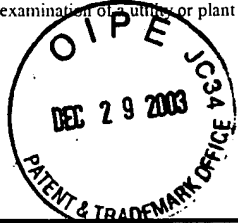


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**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.



Application Number	09/741,018
Filing Date	December 21, 2000
First Named Inventor	MATSUMOTO, Katsuyuki et al.
Group Art Unit	.2121
Name of Examiner	Thomas K. PHAM
Attorney Docket No.	001627

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.  
 Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat

1. **Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a.  Previously submitted
  - i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on November 20, 2003.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
  - i.  Amendment/Reply
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - iv.  Other Petition for Extension of Time.

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2. **Miscellaneous**

- a.  Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340
  - i.  RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e)
  - ii.  Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Check in the amount of \$880.00 is enclosed.

12/31/2003 HVUJNG1 00000021 09741018 770.00 OP  
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**REQUEST FOR  
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001627

**SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name **Darren R. Crew**

Registration No. **37,806 (att/agent)**

Signature

*Darren R. Crew*

Date **December 29, 2003**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

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